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FOREIGN DEPARTMENT



IN CHARGE OF

LAVINIA L. DOCK, R.N.

UNA AND HER LIONS

THE beautiful tribute written by Miss Nightingale to the memory of Agnes Jones, whose heroic life-work as a nurse was too soon terminated by an untimely death at her post, should be familiar to all nurses, and the desire to honor those whose deeds were noble should lead all travellers in the modern sisterhood to visit the old, grimy gray mass of the work-house hospital at Liverpool which was the scene of her labors.

On a dull, rainy day with lowering sky, the writer went forth to see it. So vast is its extent and so forbidding are its high bare stone walls that for the greater part of an hour one may wander about outside searching for the entrance to its gloomy interior. Absorbed in recollections of Agnes Jones in her young devotion and ardor and her immense task in bringing humanity and loving service into that drear place, it seemed more in keeping with the aspect of her problem there to view the buildings from outside first, and even to shrink, in spirit, from their gray stones; to look vainly for an entrance, to feel as if there were none, as if all inside were some other world of unknown and mysterious character. How must she have felt when for the first time she approached and entered it?

The Brownlow Hill Workhouse with its infirmary is extensive enough to shelter several thousand people. It is like a small walled town of many buildings, and has features more extraordinary than one can easily find elsewhere in many travels. As one walks through its mazes one receives a most vivid and terrible impression of how the crime of poverty was regarded by our ancestors only fifty years ago. One enters through a portal-gate and past a little porter's lodge and then through immense distances of winding ways laid between high stone walls, bare, hard, and forbidding exceedingly. One gets the impression that those old-time architects tried actually to bar out the sight of the sky and the distance from those who had to walk from one building to another, or that the inmates of those ungracious dwellings were so wild to escape that even their pathway along from one part to another

had to be lined on both sides with high prison walls. No tree or blade of grass or hint of beauty or consoling nature meets the eye; coming through between walls one meets buildings, all of stone again, with prison-like walls and small windows, flagged walks and vistas of other walls and other flagged courts and walks. A set of buildings so expressive of human forlornity and hopelessness one might never see again.

When Agnes Jones entered this vast institution to make over the system of nursing within it, she found indeed a mass of human existence corresponding in dreariness and squalor to the worst that its architecture could suggest, but the sacrifice of her life there was not in vain, for to-day the transformation that she wrought has had its full fruition, and the memory of the past fades like a dream before the present scenes. Troops of young, fresh, and pretty nurses, in pink or blue, now brighten the dull paths between the stone prison walls and cheer alike the eyes and spirit. The old wards are clean, quiet, well-kept, and even have an air of comfort though their windows are small and the general style is like that of our oldest city hospitals.

Agnes Jones' little room with her bedroom attached is almost as she left it at her death; plain, severely furnished, a little office on the ground floor of one of the buildings; here she had her headquarters, from whence she made her rounds by day and night. Typhus is now unheard of in Brownlow Hill Infirmary, but it was typhus of which Agnes Jones died after her short period of most intensive and soul-racking work. She was one of the first of English nurses to die, and Miss Nightingale saw many after her pass away, but none should be longer remembered than Una, who conquered the lions and set the example of regeneration for all the workhouse hospitals of England.

HISTORY OF NURSING TRANSLATED INTO GERMAN

THE German nurses' journal of December 1 gave Sister Agnes's joyful recital of the completion of the German translation of the first volume of a "History of Nursing" and promptly on Christmas Eve came a copy as a Christmas gift to the authors. The second volume is to be done next year. The German edition is a beautiful and artistically bound book, somewhat larger than the English, as Sister Agnes had added new footnote material on German subjects. Also the authors had sent her some new material found in French libraries too late for the original English edition, but which will be added to revisions. The illustrations are the same, except that one new one appears in the German volume, namely, a charming photograph of Amalia Sieveking. The illustrations were sent over by the Putnams from the original

plates. The publisher that Sister Agnes's lucky star led her to is quite the most incredible fairy story that we have ever heard of. Let us tell in Sister Agnes's own words what he has done.

"The work of translation I could very well take upon myself" (we have told already how Sister Agnes withdrew to Switzerland last summer and there translated the History), "but to undertake the cost of publication would be impossible. However, I never doubted that the way would open, and had taken the opportunity of inquiring among various important firms long before beginning in earnest with the book. Then Sister Elizabeth Kollman, in Dresden, suggested that I approach Herr Consul Vohsen, the proprietor of the Dietrich Reimer publishing house (geographical publications, and one of the noted German firms), as she believed that he would understand our interests. A few weeks after my first letter to Herr Vohsen the signed contract was in my hands! A fairly full correspondence and some still fuller talk had won for us the unselfish interest of a man whose character is shown in his brief remark to me: 'The important question is, whether a book is needed—not whether it will pay.' German, practical idealism! And that it was given to me to convince him of the needfulness of this book, will always seem to me one of the greatest successes of my work. But Consul Vohsen did not only undertake the risk of publication. When he heard more about the unpaid and unselfish work of nurses in carrying on international movements of uplift, he said his firm would take no profits from the book whatever, but simply the costs of publication and distribution, and any income beyond this should revert to us for our uses. Can any, among our Sisters, realize the emotions with which I went home from that interview? To find sympathetic and noble minds is always a joy, but the hour when a great and long-cherished wish is in such wise fulfilled, is never to be forgotten."

Now, is not that a publishing fairy tale? A part of the profits (if any there are) is to go to the Sick and Pension Fund of the German Nurses' Association, and part to international work. To all his other kindnesses, Herr Vohsen added the services of a highly trained literary critic of the firm, Miss Estelle du Bois-Reymond, who went over the entire wording of the translation.

Sister Agnes's own part of the work was little less than impossible. In three and a half months she had finished the whole first volume, besides writing two hundred association business letters and preparing a long report on association matters. It was an intense bit of work. All the German quotations (and they are many) were looked up and taken from the originals. Indefatigably the nurses in Berlin ran back

and forth to the Royal Library. Even from New York went over original German text. Hippocrates must be quoted from German translations, and after the printer had begun type-setting it was found that one quotation was not in the Berlin library. Searching far and wide finally unearthed it in the library of the Minister of War. The last sheets of manuscript were completed just two minutes before the closing of mail-time previous to Sister Agnes's departure from Switzerland!

THE THIRD VOLUME OF NURSING HISTORY

THE third volume, which is to be sold entirely for the benefit of the International Council of Nurses' treasury, no private profits to exist in it outside of the publisher's royalty, is now rapidly approaching completion, although it has been impossible to give to it the unbroken consecutive time that was given to the first two volumes. It is hoped that a steady, even if small, income may flow regularly into the international treasury from Volume III, and nurses all over the world are assisting in its preparation with the greatest unselfishness and readiness. It will not be the work of two but of many, and this will give it additional claims to interest. Miss Louise Brent, head for a number of years of the Children's Hospital in Toronto, will prepare the chapter on Canada. Mrs. Bedford Fenwick has generously promised to be responsible for the English material, Mme. Mannerheim has gathered and sent the Finnish chapter with some lovely photographs, the Danish nurses are writing their chapter, Miss Hester Maclean, assistant inspector of hospitals in New Zealand, will supply the history of that country's nursing, and the chapters on the other countries will be largely original material carefully looked over by the nurses competent to revise them. From far India has come a bundle of material gathered by Mrs. Klosz, editor of the *Nursing Journal of India*, who took an immense amount of extra trouble for this purpose, not allowing even a visit from the stork to interfere. The third volume should, therefore, when finished, embody to nurses in the rank and file the eager and unselfish spirit of co-operation, which makes all things easy or at least possible, and they can best show their appreciation by buying a copy of it. Although it will be of the same form and pattern as the first two volumes, it may be bought separately from them.

THE CONQUEST OF VENEREAL DISEASE

THE great campaign against venereal disease is well under way in all parts of the world, and the nursing press has rallied nobly to the front of the fight. Every month shows articles and gives report of

stirring addresses made before nurses and of their devoted adherence to the cause of outrooting these most unnecessary diseases. The British journal for November 26 has an editorial on the eradication of venereal diseases; *Nursing Notes* for December considers them in an article by "M.D." called "Preventable Diseases"; *Kai Tiaki* for October has a splendid article by Dr. Agnes Bennett; everywhere the women physicians are upraising the new standard of sex morality. New Zealand has passed a new Health Act making venereal diseases reportable to Boards of Health, and, as women vote in New Zealand, the provisions of this act will not be one-sided. Great Britain has an active movement going on in favor of making infantile ophthalmia notifiable, as it already is in some continental countries.

Most encouraging, the fight against prostitution has had a notable victory in the conclusions of the Fourth International Congress for the Repression of the White Slave Trade held in Spain last October. At that congress it was definitely and almost generally agreed that the principal source of the white slave trade is the existence of tolerated houses of prostitution, that is, of houses which are protected and permitted by city officials and the police. Such houses are an inevitable part of all systems of regulation, and are also inevitable wherever a system of "segregation" is allowed, or wherever there is a corrupt alliance between the police and commercial vicious elements even though legal regulation does not exist. This explains why we have a white slave trade in this country, though we have no state regulation of vice (the Page bill having been declared unconstitutional in this respect). The discussions and conclusions on this point by the congress should silence once and for all those feeble if well-meaning apologists of prostitution, who advocate segregation or the confining of houses of prostitution to certain quarters of the city. This is the very pivot of the trade in girls.

The International Council of Women sent inquiries to twenty-two countries in regard to the sixth question before the Madrid congress, namely, "What are the sources of the white slave traffic?" and the national councils of women of Great Britain, Germany, Belgium, Denmark, France, Greece, Holland, Italy, Sweden, Switzerland, Austria, America, Australia and Roumania all reported with emphasis that regulation of prostitution is the fundamental cause of the white slave trade.